Iowa Council for Early ACCESS Meeting Minutes, November 16, 2012

I. Call to order

Julie Hahn called to order the regular meeting of the Iowa Council for Early ACCESS at 10:00 AM on November 16th, in Des Moines, IA at the Grimes State Office Bldg, 400 E 14th St., Room B100.

II. Attendance

Council Members Present: Gladys Alvarez, Marti Andera, Michael Bergan, Mary Butler, Paula Connolly, Chad Dahm Gary Guetzko, Julie Hahn, Angela Hance, Shari Huecksteadt, Kevin Koester, Aryn Kruse, LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl Kim Thomas, Deb Waldron (cc).

Staff Present: Rae Miller, Chris Rubino, Cindy Weigel, Meghan Wolfe, Jodi Bruce

Absent: Robert Anderson, Jodi Angus, Maria Cashman, Gretchen Hageman, Nichol Kleespies, Heather Moorman, Janet Stauss, Scott Stran, Kasey Vermillion.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and corrected as follows: (1) Slate of Officers and (2) Laurabelle Sherman-Proehl is a member. Motion was made by Paula Connolly and seconded by Gladys Alvarez, to approve minutes as corrected. Minutes approved unanimously.

IV. Family Story

The family story was shared by Kim Thomas, provider of NICU Early ACCESS services at Heartland AEA. Kim described parent who had two sons (separate experiences) born premature. The parents started a group, Holding Tiny Hands, for other parents to meet and tell their experiences. The twins have since transitioned from Early ACCESS, but Kim shared the importance of the support provided to the parents early on. She shared the purpose of Early ACCESS is to help parents and the child grow and learn together.

V. DHS ARRA project presentation

Chris Rubino described the Department of Human Services Early ACCESS ARRA (Stimulus Funding) project.

- Funding was used to study the feasibility of doing service coordination through the Department of Human Services. Sources of revenue were researched and barriers described. The challenges encompassed large system changes, education and training, and funding to support law requirement of IDEA Part C.
- Another part of the project was to survey stakeholders to assess perceptions of Early ACCESS for working relationships, collaboration, and communication.

Results showed there were areas where agency relationships worked well and other areas it did not.

- Pilot training was therefore developed to increase understanding for laws that govern IDEA and CAPTA. Staff who participated in the training commented on the helpfulness of information provided. The training is being continued in late winter and early spring this year.
- Some funding was used to study and support an early childhood mental health retreat. Forty different stakeholders were brought together to create interest and support for starting an association of mental health to address needs for young children.
- Recommendations were suggested for future follow-up by the Early ACCESS DHS liaison. The report is available on the DE website at www.educateiowa.gov.

VI. Child & Family Policy Center presentation on early childhood needs assessment

Ann Discher, Child and Family Policy Center, presented a Power Point of results of an early childhood needs assessment. The Iowa Statewide population trends were described (see handout).

Ann asked if there were gaps of Early ACCESS services being provided. Discussion points mentioned:

- Volunteer system parents are not required to participate in Early ACCESS services.
- Cultural diversity differences, parents not as accepting of child needing help; the mothers may be more accepting than the father.
- Some parents not aware of developmental skills of their child and need to access services.
- Lack of funding to support mental health needs of young children.

VII. Medicaid update

Jim Donoghue, Department of Education Medicaid Consultant, provided and update regarding Good Standing Visits, revenue, new provider potential, and Part C Consent form revisions (see handouts).

VIII. Governor's Report

LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl, Chair of Governor's Report Committee, provided a review of the draft report. All Early ACCESS agencies will have a section to update information and provide a graph of their data. Family stories will be a part of the report and may be included as an appendix. It was suggested to include AEA referral data to show the number of infants/toddlers and families seeking assessment and services. Members will receive both the electronic and hard copy of the report to distribute to their stakeholder groups.

IX. Indicators C1, 7, 8

Cindy Weigel presented IDEA Part C annual Performance Report data for three indicators:

C1 – Timely Services

C7 – Timely Evaluation

C8 – Effective Transition

See appendix notes for question and comments the Council generated.

X. ICEA Committee Reports

Parent

No update.

Public Policy

No update.

Governor's Report

See prior minutes section.

Membership/Nominations

The committee will send a letter to members who have missed more than two meetings; vice-chair send to members (Michael and Gina has copy of letter to use).

- -Concern four members not attending.
- -Seeking new members for child care member opening.
- -Will need new slate of officers for spring.

By-Laws

No update.

XI. Sharing of Activities and information

Julie Hahn reported two resignations:

- Raymond Brownsworth (Parent)
 - Nichol Kleespies

XII. Adjournment

Julie Hahn adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Jodi Bruce

Appendix: ICEA Stakeholder Input for Part C Indicators, Annual Performance Report.

C1: Timely Services

- Do we "blame" families vs. agencies to avoid "dings"?
- What will be done for "sampling" in the future?
- How do we get and capture parent engagement through service?
- Can we see an IFSP at a Council meeting?

C7: 45 Day Timeline

- Revisit data to inform training
- Can we pull 100% of data?
- Are we measuring the right thing?
 - Where are the quality measures?
 - Addresses through liaisons pulling staff together around EA issues (as opposed to AEA as a whole)

C8: Transition

- What is the quality
 - Would like a quality assessment
 - o How do families know transition has occurred?
- Region 13 observation process.
 - o Have Cathy R. present at EAGL meeting
- What are linkages for families with greater needs?
- FIND: Deb Sampson and Paula